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**MARYLAND FUNDS PROGRAMS TO FIGHT UNDERAGED DRINKING**  
*State receives \$360,000 in federal dollars to grant to local organizations*

(Baltimore) July 15-- The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) today received \$360,000 to be used for grants to organizations and associations that work with children and teenagers. The grants are Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grants that are funded by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

"Underage drinking continues to be a serious problem in Maryland," says Governor O'Malley. "Too many of our young men and women are dying as the result of alcohol-related accidents."

Senator Barbara Mikulski was instrumental in acquiring these new funds for the State of Maryland. "Underage drinking is not a harmless rite of passage. It is illegal and dangerous, and takes a staggering toll on Maryland families. That's why I included funding in the Justice Department's budget to help save lives and prevent the costs and tragedies caused by underage drinking. This grant will strengthen Maryland's local and statewide strategies to enforce the law and raise public awareness, so we can make more progress in preventing youth access to alcohol," Senator Mikulski said.

GOCCP has combined this current grant with funds that were already available to make a total of 20 EUDL grants worth \$514,000. In funding these grants, GOCCP is working with local government agencies, law enforcement, prevention coordinators, and community leaders to enforce underage drinking laws and educate parents and students on this issue.

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